

Community

"Introduction to Improvised Weaponry"

Logline: When Greendale and City College have a Live Action Roleplaying competition, Jeff succumbs to his nerdiness with the study group and then Jeff gives Chang a lesson on what it's like when someone takes a fantasy too far.

Cold Open

ABED's voice greets the viewer as the camera pans around the school, watching students walk along. He talks about a tale of honor and tragedy all set in the backdrop of a fantasy world of swords and magic. It's revealed that Abed is giving the narration for a video he's making. Abed's screen pauses - he remarks that this isn't ready for viewing and turns off the television.

Act One

Abed is in the study room, talking with JEFF, BRITTA, ANNIE and SHIRLEY. Jeff rubs his temples and complains about the class he's teaching being the subject of continued stress, and that he hopes this week can be the one that he can finally relax for a weekend, while still expressing some hope for the better points of teaching.

PELTON waltzes into the room wearing a warrior princess costume a la Xena. Jeff waves off Pelton, stands up, expresses his complete disinterest, and walks out the door. Crestfallen, Pelton tells everyone what's going on: in an effort to repair some of the animosity from previous events, they have agreed to have an official, friendly competition that won't cause massive property damage - "live action roleplaying". The last school standing wins a sizable sum of money for the school in funds from an earmarked budget that has to be spent this year, so they need to win. Pelton believes in them - the study group hasn't let him down before. He leaves a bag of foam swords, axes and fist-sized packets, and the group questions what is going on. Pelton produces a rulebook, wishes them luck and sashays away. Abed picks up the rulebook and starts reading while Annie and Britta pick up the weapons and packets. Annie lets slip that she used to play it as a teen while Shirley suggests that it's Satanic. After Annie and

Britta discuss steam tunnel incidents and how it was all a sham, they try to figure out a plan of attack.

CHANG and Jeff are in the teacher's lounge, drinking. Chang explains the tournament to Jeff while swinging a foam weapon and says that to win, they have to go the distance – they have to get into their roles. Jeff finishes his drink and mocks Chang, then leaves. Chang bellows about going to play with people that want him around. He smacks Jeff across the face with the rulebook like a challenge and walks off.

Jeff sits at his desk, reading through rulebook. His screen pops up an email – it's from Chang, titled "THE GAUNTLET IS THROWN". He picks up his phone and calls Annie, letting her know that he's in.

Elsewhere, Chang kneels in front of a bunch of black-clad knights, who swear him in as Chang, Conqueror after a short ceremony. Chang goes into a monologue about how he's going to crush Jeff and Greendale, but is cut off abruptly by one of the other knights.

Act Two

Outside, students are practicing with foam weapons in groups. Shirley swings a foam battle-axe at three practice partners, apologizing with each swing. Britta throws packets at FAT NEIL who tries to dodge them. All of them express confusion as to how well they are doing.

Jeff and Annie step onto the field, dressed as a knight and an elf. He gives a Winger Speech about knowing your enemy and how winning requires doing what it takes, and for this challenge they are going to have to play as hard as City College. As he points to Shirley and Troy, they each fall into a character as medieval characters. Britta questions Jeff as to why he's going this far, which he responds with the fact that Chang defected for the battle, and he refuses to lose. Britta accepts, and falls into her fantasy persona. Abed shows up as Doctor Spacetime and brings Fat Neil to the group, who kneels in front of Jeff. Each of the other classmates kneels in front of him, and Jeff yells triumphantly.

The campus is converted to a fantasy world. The study group and other students practice swinging blades and throwing

packets. The packets change mid-flight to look like balls of fire and ice. Abed expresses concern about how far Jeff is going in this fantasy to Annie, who dismisses his worries as a little too rational for what needs to be done. Abed wanders the camp, talking to himself in the third person as an observer of how the camp is ready to go to war, and how quickly everyone fell into this particular fantasy.

Jeff, Troy, Britta and Shirley sit in the kitchen, which has been converted to a tavern. They talk strategy, trying to figure out who should go where. Pelton comes by as a barmaid, reminding them of the stakes of the win, which he is soundly rebuffed for not 'staying in character'. A nearby student surreptitiously snaps pictures of the battlefield, then disappearing. They all end the night, cheering each other on and drinking from flagons.

The student who took pictures kneels before Chang at the City College camp. They talk about what the one weakness is with the Greendale strategy. Chang cackles, and then heads to the Department of Engineering.

Act Three

The Greendale student body stands ready at the break of dawn on the appointed field of battle. Pelton and SPRECK meet on the field, express a mutual admiration for the work both sides have done, and wish each other luck. The horn blows, and the two groups run towards each other.

Chang gestures wildly into the forest, and ballistae filled with rows and rows of arrows. They fly through the air in slow motion, hitting scores of students and damaging property. Pelton reaches towards the damaged pieces, dismayed. TROY is struck by one of the arrows, looks around and realizes what he's wearing, and walks off the field.

Britta mourns Troy's loss, but Shirley bellows and charges, axe held high. She cuts down enemy after enemy. When one gets behind her, dagger in hand, the student is knocked away moments after Shirley recognizes the threat. Annie waves, and is cut down soon after. She blinks, looks around, and then down at her outfit, then walks off the field in bewilderment.

Jeff fights his way towards Britta. They fight back to back as City College readies another volley. They talk about how

hopeless it is, until Jeff stops suddenly and exclaims. Abed hears the exclamation, and stops his self-narration to walk over. Jeff asks how City College is able to field such units, which Abed responds with how, essentially, it's bending the world's rules. Jeff asks Abed to try and make the City College people realize that they're playing a game.

Abed nods, and walks towards the ballistae operators. After talking to them a bit about how they look and what their real lives are, they snap out of it and see the world as it is – a school yard with broken lights and fixtures, foam arrows everywhere and people in Renaissance garb throwing packets at each other. The students, broken of their view, express a desire to do anything else and leave the field. Abed smiles, and approaches another group of City College students.

Chang rises from a pile of Greendale College warriors, defeating each and bellowing out a challenge to Jeff. They confront each other on the field of battle and yell insults at each other. Abed walks up to both of them and informs them that the battle's nearly over, and they are the ones standing. Chang takes swings at Jeff, yelling about not being on the losing team, and that he made the hard choices to win. Jeff responds that he didn't – he chose the side he thought would win, and not stick with his friends. Chang looks remorseful, and comes in to hug Jeff. Chang pulls a dagger from a hidden back sheath and screams as he jabs the dagger in Jeff's back, but he has a moment of realization – Jeff had a dagger at his back too. Chang laments the decision loudly.

Pelton and Spreck walk up and congratulate Abed, who was the last person standing. He looks confused, but thanks them for the recognition. The fantasy world finally fully fades away, leaving a field full of debris.

Tag

Troy and Abed sit in their fantasy garb, speaking in fake old English about the battle. Jeff walks into the room and tells them to hurry up and help them clean up the mess.